

pandemic of HIV/AIDS on the continent of Africa.

I find it interesting that my dad fought the Japanese and I'm sitting down talking about keeping the peace with the Prime Minister of the very same country. Something happened: Japan adopted a Japanese-style democracy. The lesson for all to hear is that liberty has got the capacity to change an enemy into an ally, and liberty has got the capacity to change a region of the world that is full of hate and resentment, a region of the world from which people were recruited to launch attacks against us to a place of hope.

Someday an American President will be sitting down with duly elected leaders from the Middle East talking about keeping the peace, and a generation of Americans are going to be better off for it.

This is our last stop before voting, but it's been a tradition in our family that we always end up the last stop in Texas. And there's a reason why. And there's a reason why: Because Laura and I are inspired by our fellow Texans. We appreciate the prayers that uplift us on a daily basis. We thank you for your friendship. We encourage you to vote. Send Rick Perry back to the Governor's office, please.

God bless you, and may God bless Texas and the United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:09 p.m. at Reunion Arena. In his remarks, he referred to Texas State Sen. Jane Nelson; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization.

## Remarks on Election Day in Crawford, Texas *November 7, 2006*

Laura and I know it's a privilege to be able to cast our vote, and I encourage all Americans to vote today.

We live in a free society, and our Government is only as good as the willingness of our people to participate in it. And therefore, no matter what your party affiliation or if you don't have a party affiliation, do your duty: Cast your ballot, and let your voice be heard. So we thank you for being

a good citizen. It's good to be here voting in Texas. We're going to be heading back up to Washington here pretty soon and watch the results.

Appreciate it. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:10 a.m. at the Crawford Fire Station. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## The President's News Conference *November 8, 2006*

*The President.* Thank you. Say, why all the glum faces?

Yesterday the people went to the polls, and they cast their vote for a new direction in the House of Representatives. And while the ballots are still being counted in the

Senate, it is clear the Democrat Party had a good night last night, and I congratulate them on their victories.

This morning I spoke with Republican and Democrat leadership in the House and Senate. I spoke with Republican leaders,